

THAT CLAIMED IS:

1. A prepaid healthcare system patient identification card comprising:

a body having a substantially rectangular shape  
formed of a flexible material;

5           medical network indicia printed on a surface  
portion of the body of the prepaid healthcare system  
patient identification card;

patient identification means positioned on the surface of the body of the prepaid healthcare system patient identification card for identifying information associated with at least one of a plurality of patients; and

prepaid healthcare consultation monitoring means positioned on the surface of the body of the prepaid healthcare system patient identification card for monitoring a preselected number of prepaid healthcare consultations purchased by each of the plurality of patients.

2. The prepaid healthcare system patient identification card as described in Claim 1, wherein the patient identification means further comprises indicia, the indicia being unique to each one of the plurality of patients.

3. The prepaid healthcare system patient identification card as described in Claim 1, wherein the prepaid healthcare consultation monitoring means further comprises a first at least one indicium  
5 representing at least one prepaid healthcare consultation.

4. The prepaid healthcare system patient identification card as described in Claim 3, wherein

the prepaid healthcare consultation monitoring means further comprises a second at least one indicium  
5 positioned over the first at least one indicium, the second at least one indicium representing a used prepaid healthcare consultation.

5. The prepaid healthcare system patient identification card as described in Claim 1, further comprising data storage capacity positioned on the body of the prepaid healthcare system patient identification  
5 card, the data storage capacity including the patient identification means and the prepaid healthcare consultation monitoring means.

6. A prepaid healthcare system patient identification card comprising:  
a body formed of a flexible material;  
patient identification means positioned on a  
5 surface portion of the body for identifying information associated with one of a plurality of patients, each one of the plurality of patients participating in a network of physicians, the network of physicians comprising a plurality of physicians providing a  
10 preselected number of prepaid healthcare consultations to each of the plurality of patients; and  
prepaid healthcare consultation monitoring means positioned on the surface portion of the body for monitoring the preselected number of prepaid healthcare  
15 consultations purchased by one of the plurality of patients.

7. The prepaid healthcare system patient identification card as described in Claim 6, further comprising data storage capacity positioned on the surface of the patient identification card, the data

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8. The prepaid healthcare system patient identification card as described in Claim 6, wherein the patient identification means further comprises unique information regarding each the plurality of the patients.

10. A prepaid healthcare service system comprising:

a plurality of prepaid healthcare patient identifiers positioned to identify information associated with one of a plurality of patients, each one of the plurality of prepaid healthcare patient identifiers associated with one patient and having a preselected number of prepaid healthcare consultations associated therewith; and

a network of physicians comprising a plurality of physicians accepting the plurality of prepaid healthcare patient identifiers as recognition that each of the prepaid healthcare patient identifiers includes a preselected number of prepaid healthcare

15 consultations associated therewith taking place between  
one of the plurality of patients and one of the  
plurality of physicians in the network of physicians.

11. The prepaid healthcare service system as  
described in Claim 10, further comprising patient  
identifier reading means positioned at a location of  
each of the plurality of physicians in the network of  
5 physicians for reading the prepaid healthcare patient  
identifiers to thereby identify each one of the  
plurality of patients as being associated with the  
plurality of physicians in the network of physicians  
providing a preselected number of prepaid healthcare  
10 consultations to each one of the plurality of patients.

12. The prepaid healthcare service system as  
described in Claim 11, wherein each of the plurality of  
prepaid healthcare patient identifiers further  
comprises a card having a flexible body and having  
5 indicia positioned on a surface portion of the flexible  
body for identifying a medical network associated with  
the plurality of physicians in the network of  
physicians.

13. The prepaid healthcare service system as  
described in Claim 12, further comprising tracking  
means positioned on the surface of the body of the card  
for tracking the preselected number of prepaid  
5 healthcare consultations associated with each of the  
plurality of prepaid healthcare patient identifiers.

14. The prepaid healthcare service system as  
described in Claim 13, further comprising updating  
means positioned on the surface of the body of the card  
for updating information regarding each of the

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5 plurality of patients and each of the plurality of  
physicians in the network of physicians.

15. The prepaid healthcare service system as  
described in Claim 14, further comprising distributing  
means for distributing the plurality of prepaid  
healthcare patient identifiers to the plurality of  
5 patients.

16. The prepaid healthcare service system as  
described in Claim 15, wherein the distributing means  
further comprises a distribution device having an outer  
surface portion and positioned in a public location and  
5 comprising the plurality of prepaid healthcare patient  
identifiers positioned therein, and further comprising  
purchasing means positioned adjacent the outer surface  
for purchasing the plurality of prepaid healthcare  
patient identifiers.

17. The prepaid healthcare service system as  
described in Claim 16, wherein the purchasing means  
further comprises a payment device that accepts a  
predetermined payment for each of the plurality of  
5 prepaid healthcare patient identifiers, and wherein  
upon recognition of the payment, the distribution  
device dispenses one of the plurality of prepaid  
healthcare patient identifiers.

18. The prepaid healthcare service system as  
described in Claim 17, further comprising prepaid  
healthcare patient identifier activating means for  
activating each of the plurality of prepaid healthcare  
5 patient identifiers dispensed from the distribution  
device.

19. The prepaid healthcare service system as described in Claim 18, wherein the activating means further comprises a telephone, wherein one of the plurality of patients that purchases one of the  
5 plurality of prepaid healthcare patient identifiers uses the telephone to contact a healthcare representative, and wherein the healthcare representative activates the prepaid healthcare patient identifier.

20. A prepaid healthcare service system, comprising:

a server having a database including data related to a plurality of patients and a plurality of  
5 physicians in a network of physicians;

a communications network positioned to be in communication with the server;

a plurality of computers positioned to be in communication with the communications network and  
10 including a user interface responsive to a user;

purchasing means positioned on the server and responsive to the plurality of patients and the plurality of physicians in the network of physicians for purchasing a plurality of prepaid healthcare  
15 consultations with the plurality of physicians in the network of physicians; and

prepaid healthcare updating means positioned on the server for updating information regarding each of the plurality of patients.

21. The prepaid healthcare service system as defined in Claim 20, wherein the prepaid healthcare updating means further updates names and locations of the plurality of physicians in the network of  
5 physicians and the names and locations of new

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26. The prepaid healthcare service system as described in Claim 25, further comprising prepaid healthcare consultation monitoring means positioned on the server and responsive to the plurality of patients and the plurality of physicians in the network of physicians for monitoring the plurality of prepaid

27. The prepaid healthcare service system as described in Claim 26, wherein the monitoring means further comprises a consultation monitor to monitor a remaining number of the plurality of prepaid healthcare consultations and inform each of the plurality of patients when the remaining number of the plurality of prepaid healthcare consultations is equal to or less than a predetermined number.

29. The prepaid healthcare service system as described in Claim 28, further comprising prepaid healthcare patient identifier activating means positioned on the server and responsive to each of the plurality of patients and each of the plurality of physicians in the network of physicians for activating each of the plurality of prepaid healthcare patient identifiers.

30. The prepaid healthcare service system as described in Claim 29, further comprising a plurality of telephones positioned in communication with the communications network, wherein each of the plurality of patients can use a predetermined combination of numbers on each of the plurality of telephones to access the database on the server to thereby perform



preselected functions.

31. A prepaid healthcare service system,  
comprising:

a server having a database including data related  
to each of a plurality of patients and a plurality of  
5 physicians in a network of physicians;

a communications network positioned to be in  
communication with the server;

a plurality of computers positioned to be in  
communication with the communications network and  
10 including a user interface responsive to a user; and

prepaid healthcare updating means positioned on  
the server and responsive to each of the plurality of  
physicians in the network of physicians for registering  
additional physicians in the network of physicians, and  
15 updating locations for each of the plurality of  
physicians in the network of physicians.

32. The prepaid healthcare service system as  
described in Claim 31, wherein the prepaid healthcare  
updating means further updates information regarding  
each of the plurality of patients.

33. The prepaid healthcare system as described in  
Claim 32, further comprising purchasing means  
positioned on the server and responsive to each of the  
plurality of patients and each of the plurality of  
5 physicians in the network of physicians for purchasing  
a plurality of prepaid healthcare consultations with  
the plurality of physicians in the network of  
physicians.

34. The prepaid healthcare service system as  
described in Claim 33, further comprising a plurality

of prepaid healthcare system patient identifiers, each  
of the plurality of prepaid healthcare patient  
5 identifiers having the plurality of prepaid healthcare  
consultations associate therewith.

35. The prepaid healthcare service system as  
described in Claim 34, wherein each of the plurality of  
prepaid healthcare patient identifiers further  
comprises a patient identification card having a  
5 flexible body.

36. The prepaid healthcare service system as  
described in Claim 35, wherein each of the plurality of  
patient identification cards includes patient  
identification means positioned on the flexible body  
5 used for identifying information associated with each  
of the plurality of patients.

37. The prepaid healthcare service system as  
described in Claim 36, wherein each of the plurality of  
patient identification cards includes medical network  
identification means positioned on the flexible body  
5 used for identifying the network of physicians  
providing the plurality of prepaid healthcare  
consultations.

38. The prepaid healthcare service system as  
described in Claim 37, further comprising prepaid  
healthcare consultation monitoring means positioned on  
the server and responsive to the plurality of patients  
5 and the plurality of physicians in the network of  
physicians for monitoring the plurality of prepaid  
healthcare consultations purchased by the plurality of  
patients.

39. The prepaid healthcare service system as described in Claim 38, wherein the prepaid healthcare consultation monitoring means further comprises a tracker to track a remaining number of the plurality of prepaid healthcare consultations and inform each of the plurality of patients when the remaining number of the plurality of prepaid healthcare consultations is equal to or less than a predetermined number.

40. The prepaid healthcare service system as described in Claim 39, further comprising recharging means positioned on the server and responsive to each of the plurality of patients and each of the plurality of physicians in the network of physicians for purchasing additional prepaid healthcare consultations.

41. The prepaid healthcare service system as described in Claim 40, further comprising prepaid healthcare patient identifier activating means positioned on the server and responsive to each of the plurality of patients and each of the plurality of physicians in the network of physicians for activating each of the plurality of prepaid healthcare patient identifiers.

42. The prepaid healthcare service system as described in Claim 41, further comprising a plurality of telephones positioned in communication with the communications network, wherein each of the plurality of patients can use a predetermined combination of numbers on each of the plurality of telephones to access the database on the server to thereby perform preselected functions.

43. A method of providing a prepaid healthcare

service system, the method comprising the steps of:

distributing a plurality of prepaid healthcare  
patient identifiers to a plurality of patients, each of  
5 the plurality of prepaid healthcare patient identifiers  
identifying information associated with each of the  
plurality of patients and also identifying a plurality  
of prepaid healthcare consultations between each of the  
plurality of patients and a plurality of physicians in  
10 a network of physicians, the plurality of patients  
thereby defining a plurality of members enrolled in the  
prepaid healthcare service program; and

identifying at least one of the plurality of  
physician in the network of physicians to provide at  
15 least one of the plurality of prepaid healthcare  
consultations to at least one of the plurality of  
members enrolled in the prepaid healthcare service  
program.

44. The method of providing a prepaid healthcare  
service system as described in Claim 43, further  
comprising the step of reading each one of the  
plurality of prepaid healthcare patient identifiers  
5 using a patient identifier reader positioned at a  
location of each one of the plurality of physicians in  
the network of physicians.

45. The method of providing a prepaid healthcare  
service system as described in Claim 44, further  
comprising the step of tracking the plurality of  
prepaid healthcare consultations associated with each  
5 of the prepaid healthcare patient identifiers, the step  
of tracking including monitoring a remaining number of  
prepaid healthcare consultations and informing each of  
the plurality of patients when the remaining number of  
prepaid healthcare consultation is equal to or less

10 than a predetermined number.

46. The method of providing a prepaid healthcare service system as described in Claim 45, further comprising the step of updating information on each of the plurality of prepaid healthcare patient identifiers  
5 regarding each of the plurality of patients.

47. The method of providing a prepaid healthcare service system as described in Claim 46, further comprising the step of recharging each of the plurality of prepaid healthcare patient identifiers, the step of  
5 recharging the prepaid healthcare patient identifiers including the step of purchasing additional prepaid healthcare consultations.

48. A method of selling a plurality of prepaid healthcare consultations, the method comprising the steps of:

distributing a first plurality of prepaid  
5 healthcare patient identifiers having a plurality of prepaid healthcare consultations associated therewith from a first individual physician in a network of physicians to a first plurality of physicians in the network of physicians and a first plurality of  
10 patients; and

distributing a second plurality of prepaid healthcare patient identifiers having a plurality of prepaid healthcare consultations associated therewith from the first plurality of physicians to a second  
15 plurality of physicians in the network of physicians and a second plurality of patients, the first and second plurality of patients defining members in a prepaid healthcare service system.

49. The method of selling a plurality of prepaid healthcare consultations as described in Claim 48, further compromising the step of selecting at least one physician from the network of physicians for providing  
5 at least one of the plurality of prepaid healthcare consultations to at least one of the plurality of members in the prepaid healthcare service system.

50. The method of selling a plurality of prepaid healthcare consultations as described in Claim 49, further compromising the step of recharging each of the plurality of prepaid healthcare identifiers by  
5 purchasing an additional plurality of prepaid healthcare consultations.

51. A method of providing a plurality of prepaid healthcare consultations, the method comprising the steps of:

purchasing at least one prepaid healthcare patient  
5 identifier having a preselected number of prepaid healthcare consultations associated therewith from a healthcare provider; and

distributing the at least one prepaid healthcare patient identifiers to a plurality of patients.

52. The method of providing a plurality of prepaid healthcare consultations as described in Claim 51, further comprising the step of monitoring a remaining number of the plurality of prepaid healthcare  
5 consultations and further including the step of informing each of the plurality of patients when the remaining number of the plurality of prepaid healthcare consultations is equal to or less than a predetermined number.

53. The method of providing a plurality of prepaid healthcare consultations as described in Claim 52, further comprising the step of selecting at least one of a plurality of physicians from a network of  
5 physicians to provide at least one of the plurality of prepaid healthcare consultations to at least one of the plurality of patients.

54. The method of providing a plurality of prepaid healthcare consultations as described in Claim 53, further comprising recharging the at least one prepaid healthcare patient identifiers by purchasing  
5 additional prepaid healthcare consultations from a healthcare provider.

55. A method of providing a plurality of prepaid healthcare consultations, the method comprising the steps of:

connecting a computer including a user interface  
5 to a communications network that is in communication with a server having a database;

purchasing a plurality of prepaid healthcare patient identifiers, each of the plurality of prepaid healthcare patient identifiers having a plurality of  
10 prepaid healthcare consultations associated therewith;  
and

locating one of a plurality of physicians in a network of physicians using the database to identify a location of one of the plurality of physicians in the  
15 network of physicians.

56. The method of providing a plurality of prepaid healthcare consultations as described in Claim 55, further comprising the step of updating the database with information regarding the network of

57. The method of providing a plurality of prepaid healthcare consultations as described in Claim 56, further comprising the step of activating each of the plurality of prepaid healthcare patient identifiers by accessing the database and verifying that each of the plurality of prepaid healthcare patient identifiers is valid.

59. The method of providing a plurality of prepaid healthcare consultations as described in Claim 58, further comprising recharging at least one of the plurality of prepaid healthcare patient identifiers by purchasing another plurality of prepaid healthcare consultations.

60. The method of providing a plurality of prepaid healthcare consultations as described in Claim 59, wherein the step of recharging the at least one of the prepaid healthcare patient identifiers further includes the step of using the telephone and the predetermined combination of numbers on the telephone to access the database and purchase another plurality of prepaid healthcare consultations.